

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/693,136  
Filing Date: October 24, 2003  
Applicant: David M. Allen  
Group Art Unit: 3643  
Examiner: Son T. Nguyen  
Title: Protective Ground Mat  
Attorney Docket: 2646-000001

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

Sir:

An summary of a telephonic interview conducted on May 18, 2007 is set forth below.


### **INTERVIEW SUMMARY**

A telephonic interview was conducted the morning of May 18, 2007 in which the Examiner and the undersigned attorney were the sole participants. The Handwerker reference was discussed in conjunction with Claims 1 and 17. The Examiner stated that she considered the layer of rocks (53) to satisfy the limitations requiring a plurality of hold-downs. The undersigned attorney respectfully disagreed with the Examiner's position and noted that the rocks (53) of Handwerker are not "coupled" to the skirt (52) of Handwerker, but rather are placed upon it. The undersigned attorney notes that the ordinary meaning of the word "coupled" is that the two components are joined or connected. No agreements were entered.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 22, 2007

By:   
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Michael D. Zalobsky  
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MDZ/cr